

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT REPORT

Louisiana State Police
Emergency Services Unit

Incident#: 12- 06829		Investigation Status: Initial		Investigator: Hopkins	
Region: II	Troop: G	Parish: Webster	Location: LAAAP, Camp Minden		
Complainant: Terry Wright			Primary #: 318-470-6641		Secondary #: 318-382-8700
Date / Time Occurred: 10/15/12 at 2230 hrs.			Date / Time Hotline Notified: 10/16/12 at 0758 hrs.		
Date / Time Investigator Notified: 10/16/12 at 0800 hrs.			Date / Time Investigator 10-97: 10/16/12 at 1030 hrs.		
Incident Type: Explosive		Digital Photographs: Yes		Video: Yes	

FACILITY:

Name: Explo Systems Inc					
Address: 1600 Java Rd			City: Minden	State: LA	ZIP: 71055
Representative: David Smith		Title: Vice President	Primary #: 318-382-8700		Secondary #: 318-470-1145

N/A:

Name:					
Address:			City:	State:	ZIP:
Representative:		Title:	Primary #: - -		Secondary #: - -

N/A:

Name:					
Address:			City:	State:	ZIP:
Representative:		Title:	Primary #: - -		Secondary #: - -

N/A:

Name:					
Home Address:			City:	State:	ZIP:
D.L. #:	State:	Class:	DOB: / /	Primary #: - -	Secondary #: - -

Select:

Name:					
Home Address:			City:	State:	ZIP:
D.L. #:	State:	Class:	DOB: / /	Primary #: - -	Secondary #: - -

CHEMICAL NAME / ID #:	Hazard Class:	Capacity:	Released:
Powder Smokeless / UN 0160	1 - Explosives	Amt.: 125000 lbs.	Est.: 167870 lbs.
/	N/A	Amt.: N/A	Est.: N/A
/	N/A	Amt.: N/A	Est.: N/A
/	N/A	Amt.: N/A	Est.: N/A

CONTAINER TYPE: N/A ☒

Select

UNDERGROUND UTILITY: N/A ☒

Responsible Party Class: Select			Name of Responsible Party:		
Representative:			Title:		
Address:			City:	State:	ZIP:
D.L. #:	State:	Class:	DOB: / /	Primary #: - -	Secondary #: - -
Dig Ticket #:		Ticket Status: Select		Markings Visible: Select	

Rev. 01-24-12



715344

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT REPORT

*Louisiana State Police
Emergency Services Unit*

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES ON-SCENE: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Local	Agency Name: Camp Minden FD	Representative Name:
Federal	Agency Name: BATF&E	Representative Name: Joe Mann
Select	Agency Name:	Representative Name:
Select	Agency Name:	Representative Name:

INJURIES:		FATALITIES:		FIRE:
No	Total #: N/A	No	Total #: N/A	Yes

ROADWAY CLOSURE: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Roadway #:	Date / Time Closed:	at	hrs.	Date / Time Opened: at hrs.
Roadway #:	Date / Time Closed:	at	hrs.	Date / Time Opened: at hrs.

EVACUATIONS: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Number of Persons Affected:	Date / Time Ordered:	at	hrs.	Date / Time Lifted: at hrs.

SHELTER IN PLACE: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Number of Persons Affected:	Date / Time Ordered:	at	hrs.	Date / Time Lifted: at hrs.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:				
Precipitation: Clear	Temperature: 57° F	Wind Direction: Calm	Wind Speed: 0 mph	Humidity: 91 %

REMEDICATION / MUTUAL AID: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Company/Agency: Explosive Services Intl	Representative: Jason Poe	Primary #: 225-247-1771
Company/Agency: Clean Harbors Environmental Svc	Representative: Rexby Stelly	Primary #: 337-256-4007
Company/Agency:	Representative:	Primary #: - -
Company/Agency:	Representative:	Primary #: - -
Company/Agency:	Representative:	Primary #: - -

NO.	VIOLATION	DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1.	LARS 40:1472.19A	RECKLESS USE (STORAGE) OF EXPLOSIVES	Explo Systems
2.	LARS 40:1472.12A	UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES (5 COUNTS)	Explo Systems
3.	LARS 40:1472.18A	CARELESS USE (STORAGE) OF EXPLOSIVES (4 COUNTS)	Explo Systems
4.	LARS 40:1472.5A	FAILURE TO PROPERLY MARK EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL	Explo Systems
5.	:		

ATTACHMENTS:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shipping Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification Procedures
<input type="checkbox"/> LEPC Notification Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Facility Investigation Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Facility Drawings or Blueprints
<input type="checkbox"/> Employee Interviews	<input type="checkbox"/> Facility Monitoring Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video	<input type="checkbox"/> MCSAP Report No.:	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Crash Report No.:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT REPORT

*Louisiana State Police
Emergency Services Unit*

DETAILS:

On 10/16/2012 at 0800 hours, Investigator Hopkins was informed of an explosion at Camp Minden in the L2 explosive storage area. The detonation occurred at 2230 hours on 10/15/2012, but the LANG Military Police could not locate the exact site. The L2 area is secured by a locked gate and patrols did not have access to the area. The area was unlocked at approximately 0700 hours by Terry Wright, Explo Systems Operations Manager, and the detonation site was located at magazine number 2464.

At 1030 hours, Hopkins met with Sr. Tech Hardy on scene. An overall view of the site indicated magazine 2464 containing 124,190 pounds of smokeless powder had detonated. Directly in front of the magazine doors (east side) was a box van trailer containing 43,680 pounds of smokeless powder. Both the trailer and magazine were completely destroyed. Behind the magazine (west side) were hopper rail cars. The blast derailed 11 cars. Total damage to the cars has not been assessed at time of report but appears to be minor. On the ground around the site was residue smokeless powder kicked out of the blast site but not burnt. Powder was partially contained in plastic anti-static bags or damaged cardboard containers. Fire department personnel were extinguishing small brush fires and smoldering logs. The total area of destruction and contamination was approximately 1,250 feet by 1,250 feet. The blast pattern from the magazine indicates the magazine functioned properly during the detonation by venting the blast east and west and up. Magazines and box van trailers approximately 200 yards south of the center of the site were undamaged.

While surveying the site, Hardy located four box van trailers. All were placarded with Explosive placards. Three were unlocked and contained large quantities of smokeless powder. Wright stated the trailer that detonated was also unlocked. One trailer had cartons labeled TNT but was later identified as containing smokeless powder. Photographs 10 through 64 depict the trailers and contents.

The smokeless powder stored in the magazine and box van was contained in anti-static plastic bags in 35 pound fiberboard drums. Magazine 2463 located south of the blast site was inspected to determine the method of storage used for the smokeless powder. Some of the fiberboard drums in Magazine 2463 were damaged and in unserviceable condition. Some were haphazardly stacked and not secured to the pallets. Two drums were on the floor having fallen from a stack 3 pallets high. They were not secured to the pallet and probably fell due to shock transmitted from the blast. One full pallet was stacked on a partially loaded pallet. Photographs Mag 2463 Photo 01 through Mag 2463 Photo 13 depicts the method of storage.

The smokeless powder stored by Explo Systems was received from a small arms manufacturer, Alliant Techsystems Inc., Lake City AAP, Independence, MO during 2007. Explo Systems purchased the powder for resale. The powder was not identified by date shift codes or lot numbers because it was a mixture from several production runs of different lots that was not used to manufacture ammunition. Simply put, the left overs and floor sweepings remaining after ammunition manufacturing. Research into storage hazards of smokeless powder revealed that deterioration when improperly stored can lead to spontaneous ignition. Storage in an earthen covered igloo magazine should result in a long shelf life. Storage in a box van trailer is less than optimum and could accelerate deterioration. During disposal procedures of residue, the powder was found to contain foreign objects; specifically, empty and loaded small arms cartridges and cases. There is no way to know how foreign objects would affect the products stability or how those objects would react to water used to wet the powder. The powder was stored wet. It is unknown whether the water would affect the stabilizers manufactured in the powder. Video cameras from a business approximately 2 miles away recorded the detonation. Visual evidence from the video indicates a detonation and then 10 seconds later a much larger detonation. This would indicate the product in the box trailer detonated first and sympathetically detonated the product stored in the magazine. Wright was asked how long the product had been stored in trailers and his answer was "too long". Wright stated they did not have room to store the product in igloo magazines. Camp Minden staff advised Hopkins that Explo Systems had asked to rent more magazines but none were available.

SUMMARY

The exact cause of the detonation is unknown. Attached are reference materials documenting the hazards with smokeless powders when stored in less than optimum conditions. It is this Investigators belief that the product stored in the box trailer decomposed to the point of spontaneous combustion because of the high temperatures associated with a metal box and the product having foreign matter mixed with it. If the product was stored correctly in earthen covered igloo magazines, the chance of a detonation would have been greatly reduced.

Charge #1: Reckless storage of explosives: The smokeless powder was stored in a reckless manner; i.e. poorly stacked, unserviceable containers, crushed containers, storage not in magazine.

Charge #2: Unlawful storage of explosives: Box trailers are not authorized storage magazines and 5 trailers were found to be used for storage.

Charge #3: Careless storage of explosives: 4 trailers were not secured. Although the gate into area L2 is locked, it is not monitored and the product is not secured from theft or unauthorized access.

Charge #4: Failure to properly mark explosive material: Some of the smokeless powder stored in trailers was labeled as TNT.

Total estimated dollar value for damages and remediation at the time of this report is \$1,620,000.

TARGET SHEET

SITE NAME: EXPLO SYSTEMS INCORPORATED

CERCLIS I.D.: LAR000072223

TITLE OF DOC.:	[HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT REPORT FROM LOUISIANA STATE POLICE WITH INCLUDED DESTRUCTION OF STATE PROPERTY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2012 INCIDENT AT CAMP MINDEN]
----------------	---

DATE OF DOC.: 10/17/2012

NO. OF PGS. THIS TARGET SHEET REPLACES: 3

SDMS #: 715344 ORIGINAL DOC ID: 9530617

SENSITIVE ? ☒ **MISSING PAGES ?** ☐

ALTERN. MEDIA ? ☐ CROSS REFERENCE ? ☐

LAB DOCUMENT ? LAB NAME:

ASC./BOX #:

CASE #: _____ **SDG #:** _____

COMMENTS : RECORDS CENTER.

**THIS TARGET SHEET REPLACES PAGES 4 - 6, BATES
NUMBERS 001131 THROUGH 001133. THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REDACTED DUE TO FOIA EXEMPTION (b) (5) -
PRIVILEGED-DELIBERATIVE - DOCUMENT 9530617 IS
LOCATED IN THE U.S. EPA REGION 6 SUPERFUND
RECORDS CENTER.**